United Nations S/2001/730*

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 August 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 23 July 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the pleasure of enclosing the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of Ukraine in the month of March 2001 (see annex).

The enclosed assessment was prepared under my own responsibility in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451).

While other members of the Security Council were consulted on its contents, the assessment should not be considered as representing the views of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Valery **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

01-46840* (E) 300801

Annex to the letter dated 23 July 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Ukraine (March 2001)

This assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of March 2001 has been prepared under the responsibility of Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky, Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.

During the month of March, the Council paid particular attention to the situations in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bougainville (Papua New Guinea), Burundi, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Liberia, Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Middle East, Sierra Leone and Somalia. The Security Council held 23 formal meetings, during which six presidential statements, on the situations in Burundi, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the follow-up to the Security Council summit meeting, and five resolutions, on Liberia sanctions, the mandate of UNMEE, the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the mandate of UNAMSIL and nominations for judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, were adopted. Five of those meetings were held in private, and official communiqués were issued. During the month of March, the Council met with the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Georgia.

The Council members met in consultations of the whole on 29 occasions, at which they discussed 23 items of the agenda. In addition, two meetings with countries contributing troops to UNMEE and UNAMSIL and two "Arria formula" meetings, with the Secretary-General of NATO and the non-governmental organization Parliamentarians for Global Action, were held.

After consultations of the whole, the presidency provided detailed briefings on the work of the Council to countries that are not members of the Council, and addressed the news media and was authorized to make 12 statements to the press. Through its web site (www.un.int/ukraine), the presidency published, on a regular basis, the provisional programme of work of the Security Council, resolutions and presidential statements adopted in March, and all statements to the press.

Africa

Burundi

The heightened attention of the Council to the situation in Burundi was dictated by the rapidly deteriorating military situation in the country at the end of February and the beginning of March and the increased violence, including the attacks by Burundian armed groups on the capital.

On 2 March, the Council members, during consultations of the whole, heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Kieran Prendergast, on the current political, military, humanitarian and socio-economic situation in Burundi and developments in the Arusha peace process in the past months. The Under-Secretary-General also informed the Council about the meeting on 25 February, under the facilitation of Nelson Mandela, of the signatory parties to the Arusha Agreement, during which no consensus on the issue of the transitional leadership of Burundi was reached; and the summit meeting of the Regional Initiative, convened following that meeting, which adopted a communiqué containing a set of recommendations on arrangements for the transitional presidency for the next three years. At the 4285th meeting, held on 2 March, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2001/6), in which it strongly condemned the attacks by armed groups in Burundi, particularly those launched on Bujumbura, and expressed concern at the timing of those actions, since they were launched during the meetings of the parties to the Arusha Agreement. The Council expressed its strong disapproval of all acts aimed at undermining the peace process in Burundi; urged all sides to exercise restraint and to refrain from any action that might exacerbate the situation; and

reiterated its readiness to consider practical ways in which it could best support the peace process, and the implementation of the Arusha Agreement.

On 16 March, in response to a letter from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council to express his country's concerns at the intensification of the war, which constituted a serious setback for the ongoing peace process and endangered peace in Burundi and in the subregion (S/2001/221), the Council held a private meeting (4297th) with the participation of the Permanent Representative of Burundi. Following the meeting, an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.4297).

On 20 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs again briefed the Council members on the latest developments in the country. In particular, he informed the members of the Council of the views and reactions of the signatories to the Arusha Agreement, the facilitation and the Regional Initiative with respect to the issues raised during the Council's private meeting with the Permanent Representative of Burundi on 16 March and of the current military and political situation in Burundi. Following the discussion, the President was authorized by the Council members to convey, through the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives in the region, the call of the Council to the signatories of the Arusha Agreement and also to the countries of the region to use their influence to urge the rebel groups to put an end to the fighting and start negotiations without delay.

Liberia

On 7 March, following a series of intensive consultations at the expert and ambassadorial levels, the Council adopted resolution 1343 (2001), emanating from its previous discussions, in particular the meeting on 12 February with a ministerial delegation of ECOWAS. The resolution set out the Council's demands to the Government of Liberia to take a number of concrete steps aimed at ceasing its support to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone; introduced, with immediate effect, a new arms embargo with respect to Liberia, which replaced the measures imposed by the Council in its resolution 788 (1992); and established a time limit for the application of the embargo for a period of 14 months. The imposition of measures to prevent import of rough diamonds from Liberia and of a travel ban on senior members of the Government of Liberia, its armed forces and other persons providing assistance to RUF, as envisaged in the resolution, was made subject to compliance by the Government of Liberia with the demands of the Security Council, in the absence of which the aforementioned measures would automatically come into effect two months after the adoption of the resolution for a period of 12 months. The resolution also provided for the establishment, for a period of six months, of a Panel of Experts to investigate any violations of the measures established by that resolution, and resolutions 1171 (1998) and 1306 (2000) on the situation in Sierra Leone.

On 12 March, following prior consultations of the members of the Council, the President issued a note regarding the election of the bureau of a newly established sanctions Committee (S/2001/215).

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

On 8 March, at its 4291st meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, on the outcome of his visit to the region and on the precarious humanitarian situation in the border area between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The High Commissioner stated his views on the implementation of the concepts of safe passage of, and safe access to, the refugees in the area, and requested the Council to strengthen UNAMSIL by providing it with more troops and a revised mandate, so as to enable the refugees to return safely to Sierra Leone.

Following further consideration of this question, the Council, in resolution 1346 (2001), requested UNAMSIL to maintain its support, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, for returning refugees and displaced persons and to encourage RUF to cooperate to that end in fulfilment of its commitments under the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement, and also requested the Secretary-General to submit his views on how to take forward the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons, including their return.

Sierra Leone

On 23 March, the President chaired a meeting of the Security Council members with the countries contributing troops to UNAMSIL. The meeting was convened for the purpose of consultations and exchange of information and views with troop contributors before the Council took up the relevant report of the Secretary-General and decided

on the extension of the mandate of UNAMSIL and expansion of its troop strength, as recommended by the Secretary-General.

On 29 March, the members of the Council heard a briefing by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, who provided a political, military and security update of the situation in Sierra Leone, also covering regional issues, humanitarian developments and the deployment of UNAMSIL. The Secretary-General's report (S/2001/228), containing the revised concept of operations for the Mission and recommendations to increase its military strength to 17,500 troops, was introduced to the Council.

On 30 March, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1346 (2001), wherein it endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of UNAMSIL for six months and to increase its military component to a strength of 17,500, including the 260 military observers already deployed. Encouraging ECOWAS efforts towards a lasting and final settlement of the crisis in the Mano River Union region caused by continued fighting in the border areas of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, the Council underlined the importance of the political support the United Nations could provide to those efforts to stabilize the region.

Guinea-Bissau

On 29 March, in consultations of the whole, the Council members held a regular review of the situation in Guinea-Bissau and considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the country and the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office there (S/2001/237). Following the briefing and the ensuing discussion, the President, on behalf of the Council members, made a statement to the press, welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Guinea-Bissau authorities to form a broad-based and effective Government and calling upon all parties in Guinea-Bissau to cooperate to that end. While noting with concern the tense situation along Guinea-Bissau's border with Senegal, the President at the same time welcomed the signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Senegal and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance and expressed the hope that the situation would be addressed through peaceful means within Senegal, and would no longer be a destabilizing factor in Guinea-Bissau.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the month of March, the Security Council continued to pay close attention to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to react promptly to developments in the country.

On 12 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council members on the military, political and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular on progress in the disengagement of forces and MONUC deployment, the inter-Congolese dialogue and human rights issues. Speaking of the ceasefire violations, he drew the attention of the Council members in particular to the recent clashes between soldiers of the Congolese armed forces and MLC patrols near Bolomba (Equateur Province). The members of the Council emphasized the importance of a full implementation of the disengagement of forces. The incident at Bolomba was regarded as extremely inopportune, at a time when all the parties should be concentrating their efforts on meeting the deadline of 15 March for the beginning of disengagement. The Council members also expressed serious concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as gross violations of human rights, which had resulted in an increased influx of refugees across the border. After the consultations, the President, on behalf of the Council members, made a statement to the press calling on all the parties to respect the ceasefire and to cooperate with MONUC and requesting them to comply with the timetable established by resolution 1341 (2001) in respect of the disengagement.

On 30 March, during consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Michael Sheehan, briefed the Council members on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and highlighted recent progress in the process of disengagement of forces and withdrawal of foreign troops. Following the discussion, the President made a statement to the press, stressing again the need for the parties to honour the commitments they had made to make concrete steps to advance the peace process in the country and welcoming the deployment of the first contingent of MONUC at Kalemie.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 12 March, the President chaired a meeting of the Security Council members with countries

contributing troops to UNMEE, with the participation of the Secretariat, during which developments relating to the operation of UNMEE and to the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea were discussed. The following day, the situation in Eritrea/Ethiopia was discussed by the Council members during consultations of the whole. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, introduced the Secretary-General's report. In the course of the discussion, a draft resolution providing, inter alia, for an extension of the mandate of UNMEE for six months was introduced; it also contained a call on the parties to complete practical steps necessary for the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone and stressed the importance of the close relationship between UNMEE and the Boundary Commission. At its 4294th meeting, on 15 March, the Council adopted it as resolution 1344 (2001).

Somalia

The situation in Somalia remained a focus of the Council's attention during the month of March.

On 29 March, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, briefed the members of the Security Council, during consultations of the whole, on the latest developments, and the humanitarian and security situation in Somalia. He drew the attention of the Council, in particular, to the abduction by militias belonging to a Somali faction of United Nations personnel in Mogadishu, and of non-governmental organization humanitarian staff. In the course of the ensuing discussion, the members of the Council strongly condemned the abduction and demanded the immediate release of the detainees, and called on all Somali armed groups to exercise restraint and to put down their weapons and engage in peaceful dialogue with the Transitional National Government. Following the consultations, the President, on behalf of the Council members, made a statement to the press, wherein he, inter alia, demanded that those responsible for the abduction of the detainees be brought to justice and called on all armed groups to respect fully the security and safety of all personnel of the United Nations and other international organizations. He also reiterated the support of the members of the Council for the Arta Peace Conference and called on all States to refrain from any military intervention in the internal situation in Somalia, emphasizing that the territory of the country should not be used to undermine stability in the subregion.

Asia

Afghanistan

The intensified consideration by the Security Council of the situation in Afghanistan during the month of March was necessitated by the disturbing developments in the country, including the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation, the destruction of world cultural heritage and other events that brought the country international attention. The Council considered the Secretary-General's report submitted pursuant to resolution 1333 (2000), wherein it had requested that the Secretary-General review the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed by that resolution and resolution 1267 (1999) and report back to the Council within 90 days, that is, by 19 March 2001, with an assessment and recommendations.

At the informal consultations held on 6 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima, briefed the Council members on the precarious humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. On the same day, a representative of the Asia and Pacific Division of the Department of Political Affairs, updated the members of the Council on the recent military and political developments in the country, including in particular the deliberate killings of civilians in Hazarajat in central Afghanistan and the question of the alleged participation of non-Afghan nationals in the fighting in Afghanistan on the side of the Taliban, as well as the destruction of statues and non-Islamic shrines and artifacts.

In the ensuing discussion, the members of the Council expressed their grave concern at the famine and continued suffering of the Afghan people, who were facing the worst drought in a generation. They deplored the ongoing civil war in Afghanistan and the absence of effective government that might address this humanitarian disaster. It was recognized that the factions' continuing fighting while the Afghan people suffered demonstrated a profound lack of concern for the very people in whose name they fought. The members of the Council voiced their strongest condemnation of the Taliban edict of 26 February that ordered the destruction of statues and non-Islamic shrines and artifacts in Afghanistan, followed by

incomprehensible and wanton acts of violence on the world's cultural treasures. They were united in joining other calls by States, the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and many others urging the Taliban to halt the destruction of these significant aspects of Afghanistan's cultural heritage.

At the conclusion of the deliberations, the President, on behalf of the Council members, made a statement to the press, wherein he, inter alia, called on the international community to respond generously to the United Nations consolidated appeal and to urgently provide necessary assistance to those most affected by the drought and the fighting. The Afghan parties, especially the Taliban, were called upon to guarantee the secure and uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to all of those in need. The President of the Council urged the Taliban to conduct a thorough investigation and to bring to justice those responsible for deliberate killings of civilians in Hazarajat in central Afghanistan and requested the Secretariat to follow this issue closely. He again called upon all factions to respect the rights of the civilian population and to comply with international humanitarian norms and standards in the conflict.

At the informal consultations held on 23 March, the Council members considered the report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/241) submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 (d) of resolution 1333 (2000), which was introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Following the consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the Council members, in which he welcomed the issuance of the report on the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed by resolution 1333 (2000), and noted that this was the first review of the humanitarian implications undertaken by the Council shortly after new sanctions had been imposed. He supported the conclusion of the Secretary-General that the humanitarian situation in the country had not been noticeably and additionally affected by the imposition of the new sanctions imposed under resolution 1333 (2000). Serious concern was expressed about the plight of the Afghan people suffering from the ongoing conflict, exacerbated by the severe drought. The President urged the parties to the conflict to stop fighting and resume political dialogue. He also called on the international community to respond to the United Nations consolidated appeal and to urgently provide necessary assistance to those most affected by the drought and the fighting.

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

On 29 March, the members of the Security Council were briefed, during consultations of the whole, by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the status of the talks between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville parties.

The members of the Council welcomed the progress achieved at the talks and urged the parties to continue negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the remaining issues. They supported the good offices role played by the United Nations in the dialogue, especially on the disposal of weapons. Following the consultations, the President of the Council made a statement to the press.

Iraq

The Council's consideration of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait was conducted in three parts.

First, at the informal consultations held on 6 March, the members of the Council considered the fourth quarterly report of UNMOVIC (S/2001/177) and heard a briefing by the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Hans Blix, who introduced the report.

In the ensuing discussion the members of the Council reiterated in general their support for the Executive Chairman and his activities in implementing resolution 1284 (1999). They acknowledged that the cooperation of Iraq was essential for the implementation of that resolution and before the Council could decide to suspend and, subsequently, lift the sanctions, they called on Iraq to cooperate with UNMOVIC. The members of the Council reconfirmed the need to keep the Iraqi situation under regular and comprehensive review and acknowledged the special role of the Secretary-General in that regard.

Secondly, on 8 March, the Council members held informal consultations to consider the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1330 (2000) (S/2001/186 and Corr.1) and to hear a briefing by the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan.

In the course of discussion, the members of the Council highlighted the importance they attached to the enhancement of the effectiveness of the humanitarian programme, taking into account its primary goal to provide for the needs of the Iraqi people. It was stressed that the Office of the Iraq Programme was demonstrating its dedication to the goals and objectives of the humanitarian programme. The members of the Council noted that resolutions 1284 (1999), 1302 (2000) and 1330 (2000) created a solid ground for significant improvement in the programme, which should result in better living conditions for the Iraqi people. They also noted both the positive achievements and the constraints and difficulties in the process of implementing the programme, including the issue of holds, substantial reduction in oil exports from Iraq, commercial protection of goods supplied to Iraq, and existing problems in the distribution of goods to different sectors and other issues. It was emphasized that all those difficulties and constraints in the process of implementing the humanitarian programme should be addressed in a constructive and efficient way. The Council members also stressed the importance of the cooperation of the Government of Iraq in the implementation of the programme.

Thirdly, on 23 March, the President of the Security Council met with Sheikh Salem Sabah Al-Salem Al Sabah, the Chairman of the National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoner of War Affairs of Kuwait, during which issues relating to Kuwaiti missing persons and prisoners of war were discussed.

Following the discussion of this question in informal consultations, the President was authorized to make a statement to the press, in which he conveyed the concern of the Council members at the plight of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons and their families; particular importance was attached to the issue of the cooperation of Iraq in solving this humanitarian problem. The President of the Council stressed that resumption of Iraq's participation in the meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its cooperation with the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals, Ambassador Yu. Vorontsov, was of crucial importance. Iraq was urged to fully cooperate with all agencies and bodies dealing with this issue, in order to achieve progress in resolving this humanitarian problem.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

During the month of March, the Council continued to be actively seized of the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, in view of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian crisis. The Council held two separate private meetings, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine, respectively, and two public meetings to address the question and to take action on a draft resolution.

On 13 March, the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Arab States and on behalf of the members of the League of Arab States, requested the convening of a meeting of the Council to examine the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem (see S/2001/216). On 14 March, the Permanent Representative of Malaysia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Islamic States, also requested an urgent meeting of the Council to examine the grave and deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem (see S/2001/231).

On 14 March, at the request of the Permanent Representative of Israel, the Council held a private meeting (4292nd) with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, Shimon Peres, who presented the views of the new Government of Israel on the current crisis in the Middle East and outlined Israeli approaches for its settlement. Following the adjournment of the meeting, the Council held, at his request (S/2001/222) and in accordance with the Council's previous practice, a private meeting with the Permanent Observer of Palestine, Nasser Al-Kidwa, who presented the position of the Palestinian side on the issues that had been discussed at the previous meeting. The Council members had a useful exchange of views during those meetings, at the close of which official communiqués were issued (S/PV.4292 and S/PV.4293).

On 15 and 19 March, at the request of the Group of Arab States of 13 March, the Council held an open debate. The Council had before it two letters, dated 9 and 12 March 2001 respectively (S/2001/209 and S/2001/226), from the Permanent Observer of Palestine addressed to the President of the Security Council. In addition to the Council members, the Permanent

Observer of Palestine and nearly 30 representatives of States non-members of the Council took part in the debate. The Council also heard statements by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Deputy Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States.

On 20 March, the caucus of the non-aligned States in the Security Council sponsored and circulated a draft resolution (S/2001/266, dated 23 March 2001) and announced their intention to request the Council to take action on it by the beginning of the Arab Summit Conference, held at Amman on 27 and 28 March 2001. By that draft resolution, the Council would express its determination to establish a United Nations force of military and police observers throughout the occupied territories with the aim of contributing to the implementation of the Sharm el Sheikh agreements, the cessation of violence, and enhancing the safety and security of the Palestinian civilians; the force would be mandated to observe the situation throughout its area of operation, liaise between the Israeli army and the Palestinian Authority and report periodically on its activities to the Secretary-General.

On 22 March, four European members of the Council (France, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) jointly introduced draft elements for a presidential statement or a resolution on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. On the same day, in informal consultations, the Council members were briefed by the Secretary-General on the consultations he had held with the parties and all key players involved with a view to finding ways of halting the escalation of violence in the region. In particular, the Secretary-General briefed the Council members about his recent meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel, Ariel Sharon.

From 23 to 25 March, the Council members held intensive informal consultations on the draft resolution sponsored by the non-aligned caucus and the proposals of the European States. Negotiations were also conducted in various formats, with the participation of representatives of the non-aligned countries, the Arab troika (the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Bahrain), the four European countries, the United States of America and the Permanent Observer of Palestine.

At the informal consultations held on 26 March, the non-aligned States sponsored and circulated in provisional form a second draft resolution (S/2001/270); the four European countries sponsored and circulated in provisional form their draft resolution (S/2001/269); both drafts represented different versions of the consolidated text that emerged as a result of the negotiations held earlier on draft resolution S/2001/266 and the European proposals. It was decided to carry on with negotiations in the narrow format, with a view to agreeing on a single consolidated text on the basis of the two draft resolutions.

On 27 March, after a series of negotiations in various formats, given the lack of consensus among the members of the Council on a number of provisions of the consolidated text and in view of the holding of the Arab Summit, the non-aligned States requested that action be taken on their second draft resolution (S/2001/270), by which the Council, inter alia, would call for the immediate cessation of all acts of violence and return to the positions and arrangements that existed before September 2000; call on the parties to implement the Sharm el Sheikh understandings and resume negotiations on the basis of their previous agreements; express its concern at the recent Israeli settlement activities and call on the parties to take a number of immediate confidence-building steps; request the Secretary-General to consult the parties on the immediate steps to implement the resolution and report to the Council within one month; and express its readiness to act upon receipt of the report to set up a mechanism to protect Palestinian civilians, including through the establishment of a United Nations observer force.

At the same time, the four European countries sponsored a draft resolution, which appeared as a consolidated text after the last round of negotiations in a narrowed format (S/2001/281). Ukraine joined in sponsoring that draft resolution.

Later the same day, the Council held a formal meeting (4305th), at which the draft resolution sponsored by the non-aligned States (S/2001/270) was put to the vote. The result was nine votes in favour, one against (permanent member) and four abstentions; one member of the Council did not participate in the voting. The draft resolution was therefore not adopted because of the negative vote of a permanent member.

Europe

The Balkans

The Council's activities in March were largely focused on the Balkan issues. The Council had to react adequately and promptly to the deterioration of the situation in the southern Balkans, in particular in the border area between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo section), and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia proper. The Council held eight formal meetings on Balkan issues, and its members heard a briefing by the Secretariat at consultations of the whole. The Council adopted one resolution and one presidential statement on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, one statement on Kosovo, and one statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its President made statements to the press on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. The members of the Council met with the Secretary-General of NATO in an Arria formula meeting to discuss the situation in the southern Balkans.

The Security Council also held meetings with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo and Head of UNMIK and the High Representative for the implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, following which it adopted two presidential statements. In its resolution 1345 (2001), the Council dealt, for the first time since February 1998, with the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and, since the adoption of resolution 1244 (1999), with the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 6 March, the Council held a private meeting (4286th) with the participation of the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Zoran Žižić. The Council members and the Prime Minister exchanged views on the situation in and around Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and on the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). At the close of the meeting an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.4286).

After the meeting, the President, on behalf of the Council members, made a statement to the press, wherein he welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to implement fully resolution 1244 (1999), called on all the parties to support the efforts of UNMIK to build a stable and multi-ethnic democracy in Kosovo and to ensure suitable conditions for Kosovo-wide elections, welcomed the continued improvement of relations between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK and KFOR, and called for an end to all acts of violence in Kosovo. In the same statement, the President called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in southern Serbia, and for the beginning of a substantial dialogue, in order to achieve a settlement of this crisis, fully respecting the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 9 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council members on the latest developments in and around Kosovo. The members of the Council also discussed a number of issues in preparation for the Council's public meeting on Kosovo on 16 March.

On 16 March, at its 4296th meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK Hans Haekkerup, on the latest developments in Kosovo and the activities of the Mission over recent months. The Council was also addressed by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union. Later that day, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/8), in which it, inter alia, commended the Special Representative and the commander of KFOR for the ongoing efforts to implement fully resolution 1244 (1999); and welcomed the priority areas identified by the Special Representative and the establishment of a Working Group aimed at developing a legal framework for the provisional institutions for self-government in Kosovo. The Council called for an end to all acts of violence in Kosovo; and expressed concern at the security situation in southern Serbia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 22 March, the Council, at a meeting held under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Anatoliy Zlenko, heard a briefing by the High Representative for the implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Wolfgang Petritsch, on the latest developments in the country. The Council members had before them the eighteenth report of the High Representative (S/2001/219), covering the activities of his Office and developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the past

five months. Two letters, dated 26 February and 8 March respectively (S/2001/181 and S/2001/212), from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Secretary-General were also submitted for the Council's consideration. The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Sweden and Yugoslavia participated in the discussion. Following the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/11), in which it, inter alia, commended the efforts of the High Representative in implementing the General Framework Agreement, encouraged further regional political and economic cooperation, welcomed the new State-level and entity-level governments formed after general elections on 11 November 2000 and called on them to take active measures to make further progress on the return of refugees, consolidation of the State institutions, and economic reform.

Situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On 2 March, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed the deterioration of the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. After the consultations, the President was authorized by the members of the Council to make a statement to the press, wherein he, inter alia, strongly condemned the recent violence by extremists in the border area of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, seeking to undermine stability and security in this country. He also welcomed the initial steps taken by KFOR to control the border and urged UNMIK and KFOR to consider further steps that might be helpful in this regard.

On 7 March, the Council held, at the request of the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (see S/2001/191), an urgent meeting (4289th) to discuss the rapid deterioration of the situation in the north of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in particular at its border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo section). The Council was addressed by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Srgjan Kerim. The representatives of Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Bulgaria, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Turkey also took part in the discussion. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/7), in which it, in particular, strongly condemned the recent violence by ethnic Albanian armed extremists in the north of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and called for an immediate end to the violence; expressed deep concern at those events, which constituted a threat to the stability and security of the entire region. It underlined the responsibility of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the rule of law in its territory; and supported its actions to address the violence with an appropriate level of restraint, recalling the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country. The Council also welcomed the steps taken by KFOR and all relevant international organizations in cooperation with the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to remedy the situation and promote stability.

On 21 March, under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Council renewed its consideration of the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and, by resolution 1345 (2001), inter alia, condemned the extremist violence in the country and in southern Serbia, reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and other States of the region, supported the efforts of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to end the violence in a manner consistent with the rule of law, and demanded that all those engaged in armed action against the authorities of those States immediately cease all such actions, lay down their weapons and return to their homes.

Arria formula meeting

On 6 March, the Council members attended an informal meeting under the Arria formula with the Secretary-General of NATO, George Robertson, to discuss the latest situation in the southern Balkans, in particular in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in southern Serbia and in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The members of the Council and the NATO Secretary-General had a constructive discussion.

Abkhazia, Georgia

On 21 March, under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Council held a private meeting on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia. The members of the Council had before them letters dated 17 and 19 March 2001 from the Acting

Permanent Representative of Ukraine (S/2001/242 and S/2001/247) and a letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia (S/2001/245).

The Council was briefed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Irakli Menagarishvili, by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOMIG, Dieter Boden, and the President of the Security Council, speaking in his capacity as the representative of Ukraine, on the outcome of the third meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides on confidence-building measures, held at Yalta, Ukraine, on 15 and 16 March 2001. The Representative of Sweden took part in this meeting, speaking on behalf of the European Union. At the conclusion of the meeting, an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.4299).

The Council then held a public meeting (4300th), at which it adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/9), in which it, inter alia, welcomed the successful holding of the meeting at Yalta; and the resumption of the dialogue between the parties, and noted the documents signed there; reaffirmed its support for the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and encouraged the two sides to engage with renewed commitment in the peace process.

Other issues

Follow-up to the Security Council summit meeting of 7 September 2000

On 7 March, the Security Council held an open debate on the follow-up to the summit meeting held on 7 September 2000. The Secretary-General and more than 30 Member States took part in the discussion on the item entitled "Ensuring an effective role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa". The Council had before it a letter dated 28 February 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/185).

On 22 March, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/10), wherein it took note with interest of the important views expressed by non-members in the debate, noted the progress achieved in translating the commitments made at its summit meeting into practical results, and expressed the determination to intensify efforts to this end; underlined the importance of its declaration of 7 September 2000; agreed to consider and take appropriate action on the Secretary-General's forthcoming report on conflict prevention, his recommendations on the strengthening of the United Nations capacity to develop peace-building strategies, the report prepared by its Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions, and the recommendations on improving the three-way relationship between the Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat to be prepared by its Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations; and reiterated its intention to review periodically the implementation of its resolution 1327 (2000) on strengthening peacekeeping operations. The Security Council decided to conduct a further review, with the active participation of non-members, of the implementation of the commitments made at its meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 30 March, following prior consultations, the Security Council adopted resolution 1347 (2001), whereby it forwarded to the General Assembly a list of nominations for judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in accordance with article 12, paragraph 2 (d), of the statute of the Tribunal. Elections of two additional judges were to be held pursuant to resolution 1329 (2000). Following the adoption of the resolution, the President of the Council sent a letter to the President of the General Assembly informing him of the Council's action.

Women and peace and security

On 8 March, the Council members held informal consultations on women and peace and security. Following the consultations, the President was authorized to make a statement to the press on the occasion of United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace. The President recalled, inter alia, the first-ever statement by the Council on 8 March 2000 and the discussions of the Council in October 2000 as well as its resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, adopted on 31 October 2000. He also reiterated the call on Member States to ensure increased representation of women in decision-making for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and the call on all parties to armed conflict to take specific measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict. The President also noted the launching of the

first Miliennium Peace Prize for Women, stressed the need for early and full implementation of Council resolution 1325 (2000) and looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General requested by that resolution. The statement to the press was subsequently issued as a United Nations press release.

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2 March 2001)

Members of the Security Council strongly condemned recent violence by extremists in the border area of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia seeking to undermine stability and security in that country. They support the statement of the Secretary-General in this regard.

Members of the Council welcomed the initial steps taken by KFOR to control the border between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and urged UNMIK and KFOR to consider further steps that might be helpful in this regard.

Members of the Council also welcomed the recent signing of an agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the delimitation of the border between the two States.

Afghanistan (6 March 2001)

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima, briefed the members of the Council on the critical and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The members expressed their grave concern at the famine and continued suffering of the Afghan people, who are facing the worst drought in a generation. The members deplored the ongoing civil war in Afghanistan and the absence of effective government that might address this humanitarian disaster. The factions' continuing fighting while the Afghan people suffer demonstrates a profound lack of concern for the very people in whose name they fight. The members called on the Member States and the international community to respond generously to the United Nations consolidated appeal and to urgently provide necessary assistance to those most affected by the drought and the fighting. They also called on the Afghan parties, especially the Taliban, to guarantee the secure and uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to all of those in need, particularly those in remote areas of Afghanistan.

The members of the Council received additional information from the Secretariat about the deliberate killings of civilians in Hazarajat in central Afghanistan. Members of the Council welcomed the consultations between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, and the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan on how an international independent investigation might be carried out at the earliest possible time. They urged the Taliban to conduct a thorough investigation and to bring to justice those responsible, and requested the Secretariat to follow this issue closely. The members again called upon all factions to respect the rights of the civilian population and to comply with international humanitarian law, and stressed the importance of full respect for gender equity and human rights.

The members of the Council were also briefed by the Secretariat on the destruction of statues, including the colossal Buddhas at Bamian, and other non-Islamic shrines and artifacts in Afghanistan. They condemned the Taliban edict of 26 February that ordered these incomprehensible and wanton acts of violence on the cultural heritage of Afghanistan. The members of the Council joined other calls by States, the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, UNESCO, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and many others urging the Taliban to halt the destruction of these significant aspects of Afghanistan's cultural heritage, which form part of the world's cultural treasure.

Meeting with the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (6 March 2001)

Members of the Council welcomed the participation of the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Zoran Žižić, at their meeting on 6 March 2001.

Members of the Council welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to implement fully resolution 1244 (1999), including efforts to develop a legal institutional framework for the provisional self-governing institutions of Kosovo, and look forward to discussions with him on these issues later this month. They called on all parties to support the efforts of UNMIK to build

a stable and multi-ethnic democracy in Kosovo and to ensure suitable conditions for Kosovo-wide elections for those institutions as soon as feasible, including through the registration of all habitual residents of Kosovo, return of refugees and adequate security for all.

Members of the Council welcomed the continued improvement of relations between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK and KFOR, and supported the early opening of an UNMIK office in Belgrade to facilitate consultations. They stressed the importance of substantial dialogue between Kosovo political leaders and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Members of the Council called for an end to all acts of violence in Kosovo, in particular those ethnically motivated, and urged all political leaders in Kosovo to condemn those acts and to increase their efforts to create inter-ethnic tolerance.

Members of the Council welcomed the adoption of an amnesty law in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They stressed the importance of releasing all Kosovo Albanian prisoners held without charge or on political grounds immediately. They noted that this would be a major confidence-building measure.

Members of the Council reiterated the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 19 December 2000 (S/PRST/2000/40) in which they strongly condemned the violent actions by ethnic Albanian extremist groups in certain municipalities in southern Serbia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which constitutes a threat to the stability of the entire region.

Members of the Council called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and for substantial dialogue to begin in order to achieve a settlement of this crisis, fully respecting the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They commended the continued restraint shown by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They welcomed the plan presented by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia aiming at achieving a political solution through dialogue and confidence-building measures. They expressed their opinion that a swift implementation of confidence-building measures would be an important element in a peaceful settlement.

Members of the Council welcomed the efforts undertaken so far, in particular by the European Union and NATO, to support the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its endeavours to solve the problems in southern Serbia.

Women and peace and security (8 March 2001)

Members of the Security Council recall the first-ever statement by the Council, made on 8 March 2000 on the occasion of International Women's Day, which highlighted the plight of women and girls in conflict situations and the role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as peacekeeping, peace-building, reconciliation and reconstruction.

Members of the Council also recall their discussions in October 2000 and resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in which the Council recognized that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process could significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

Members of the Council reiterate, in particular, the call on Member States to ensure increased representation of women in decision-making for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and the call on all parties to armed conflict to take specific measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict.

Members of the Council stress the need for early and full implementation of the resolution by all relevant actors and urge all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies to take the resolution into account in their respective areas of work.

Members of the Council note the launch of the first Millennium Peace Prize for Women, which follows directly the spirit of the resolution in recognizing and highlighting women's leadership in ending war and building sustainable peace.

Members of the Council look forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the results of a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, to be carried out in accordance with the resolution.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (12 March 2001)

The members of the Council expressed concern at the reports of recent ceasefire violations at Bolomba and called on all parties to respect the ceasefire and to cooperate with MONUC.

The members of the Council requested all parties to comply with the timetable established by Security Council resolution 1341 (2001) in respect of the disengagement.

The members of the Council called upon all the parties to ensure that the Congo River is open for safe and secure navigation, in particular for use by MONUC forces.

The members of the Council expressed serious concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The members of the Council expressed grave concern at gross violations of human rights, which have resulted in an increased influx of refugees across the border.

The members of the Council will continue to keep this matter under close observation, including the compliance with the deadline of 15 March for disengagement.

Eritrea and Ethiopia (15 March 2001)

The members of the Security Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the region, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila.

The members of the Council noted that, despite some problems that have emerged recently, in particular regarding the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone, Ethiopia and Eritrea have generally continued to demonstrate their commitment to the implementation of the Agreement of Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 and the Agreement signed in Algiers on 12 December. There have been no ceasefire violations on the ground, notwithstanding several instances of friction in what will be the Temporary Security Zone.

Members of the Council noted, in particular, the significant progress achieved by UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate and stressed the importance of the parties' continuing to maintain and enhance close cooperation with the Mission, working constructively within the Military Coordination Commission. They noted that the Mission has now a credible force in all three sectors.

They stressed that the parties should make every effort to ensure that the difficulties that have surfaced recently do not become a major obstacle to the consolidation of the peace process. The members of the Council supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the UNMEE mandate for six months, until 15 September 2001.

The Council members also agreed upon the text of a draft resolution to extend the UNMEE mandate.

Afghanistan (23 March 2001)

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima, who had visited Afghanistan from 12 to 17 February 2001, presented members of the Council with the first report of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

The members noted the Secretary-General's important conclusion that, during the reporting period, the humanitarian situation had not been noticeably and additionally affected by the imposition of new sanctions under resolution 1333 (2000). They also noted the Secretary-General's assessment that exemption mechanisms for humanitarian assistance were functioning smoothly and that humanitarian operations had not been disrupted by the sanctions. Bearing in mind the extreme vulnerability of the Afghan population, the members emphasized that some potentially negative factors should be closely followed in the future.

The members reiterated their serious concern at the desperate situation of the Afghan people, who were suffering under a combination of escalating conflict and displacement, severe drought, frigid winter weather, and serious food shortages, particularly in remote areas of the country. They regretted that the continued fighting and the absence of effective government exacerbated the already precarious situation of the Afghan people.

The members again urged Member States to respond urgently and generously to the United Nations

consolidated appeal for Afghanistan and urged the parties to guarantee the secure and uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid, including that by non-governmental organizations and humanitarian agencies, to all of those in need.

In the light of its critical nature, the members expressed their intention to continue consideration of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan on a regular basis.

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea (29 March 2001)

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, on the status of the talks between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville leaders.

Members of the Council welcomed the progress achieved at the talks and urged the parties to continue negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the remaining issues.

Members of the Council supported the good offices role played by the United Nations in the talks, especially on the disposal of weapons, and encouraged UNPOB to facilitate further meetings between the parties to sort out the outstanding matters in this area.

Members of the Council acknowledged the efforts of all participants, including Ambassador Noel Sinclair and the members of the peace monitoring group from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu, the different Bougainville parties and the Government negotiators.

Situation in Guinea-Bissau (29 March 2001)

Members of the Security Council reviewed the situation in Guinea-Bissau. They heard a briefing from the Secretariat and took note of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/237) on the current situation in the country and the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau.

Members of the Council welcomed the ongoing efforts of Bissau-Guinean authorities to form a broad-based and effective Government and called upon all parties in Guinea-Bissau to cooperate to that end. They also underlined the importance of continued efforts aimed at consolidating the democratization process and strengthening the present institutional structure.

Members of the Council noted that, while the overall situation in the regional border area between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau remained calm, a few clashes between the forces of Guinea-Bissau and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) had been reported. The refugee situation in the border area was an added source of concern. Members of the Council encouraged the leaders of the two countries to continue their bilateral efforts towards stabilizing the situation along their common border.

Members of the Council welcomed the signing of a peace agreement in March between the Government of Senegal and MFDC, and encouraged them to continue their efforts towards a peaceful settlement.

Members of the Council reiterated their call on the international community to continue to assist Guinea-Bissau in its economic rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including through the provision of urgent assistance to enable the Government to meet the most basic social needs of the population. Members of the Council commended the World Bank and IMF for elaborating a comprehensive debt-reduction package for Guinea-Bissau.

Members of the Council took note of the progress achieved in the implementation of the programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and underlined the importance of expediting the completion of the census of all military forces.

Members of the Council commended the role played by UNOGBIS and Guinea-Bissau's other international partners in facilitating peace-building initiatives in Guinea-Bissau.

Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons (29 March 2001)

Members of the Council were informed by the President of the Security Council about his meeting on 23 March 2001 with Sheikh Salem Sabah Al-Salem Al Sabah, Chairman of the National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoner of War Affairs of Kuwait, during which they had discussed issues relating to Kuwaiti missing persons and prisoners of war.

Members of the Council express their concern at the plight of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons and their families. In this context particular

importance is given to the issue of the cooperation of Iraq in solving this humanitarian problem.

Members of the Council believe that the resumption of Iraq's participation in the meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its cooperation with the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals, Ambassador Yu. Vorontsov, is of crucial importance. They urge Iraq to fully cooperate with all agencies and bodies dealing with this issue in order to achieve progress in resolving this humanitarian problem.

The situation in Somalia (29 March 2001)

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, summarizing the latest political developments and the humanitarian and security situation in Somalia.

Members of the Council strongly condemn the abduction by militias, belonging to a Somali faction, of United Nations personnel in Mogadishu, as well as non-governmental organization humanitarian staff.

They demand the immediate release of the detainees. Members of the Council demand that those responsible be brought to justice.

Members of the Council call on all Somali armed groups to respect fully the security and safety of all personnel of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Members of the Council call upon all Somali armed groups to exercise restraint and to put down their weapons and engage in peaceful dialogue with the Transitional National Government.

Members of the Council note that, while the humanitarian situation across Somalia has improved, the vulnerability of the populations at risk still remains a concern. They expressed the hope that donors will respond generously to the just launched consolidated inter-agency appeal for 2001.

Members of the Council reiterate their support for the outcome of the Arta Peace Conference, leading to the establishment of the Transitional National Government.

Members of the Council call on all States to refrain from any military intervention in the internal situation in Somalia and emphasize that the territory of Somalia should not be used to undermine the stability of the subregion.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (30 March 2001)

Members of the Security Council requested all parties to the conflict to comply with the timetable established by Council resolution 1341 (2001) in respect of the disengagement and redeployment of forces.

Members of the Council stressed again the need for the parties to honour the commitments they made to take concrete steps to advance the peace process in the country.

Members of the Council welcomed the deployment of the first contingent of MONUC at Kalemie.

Members of the Council will continue to keep the matter under close observation.